

Coins

Yule gift ideas for collectors: That's the spirit

By Roger Boye

IF YOU HAVE a coin collector on your holiday gift list consider yourself lucky, because most collectors are easy to please.

But the noncollector trying to buy a numismatic gift for a collecting friend must use some discretion. Success isn't guaranteed. So, here are some gift suggestions:

- Subscription to a coin newspaper or magazine. For a beginning collector especially, this could be the most appreciated gift of all. Coin publications are an excellent way to learn about the hobby and invaluable to collectors.

The two largest, circulating weekly coin newspapers are Coin World [Box 150, Sidney,

Ohio 45365; annual subscription \$9.50] and Numismatic News [700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54945; annual subscription \$7.50]. In addition, there are about 10 nationally circulating coin magazines. Check a good newsstand.

A few collectors I know avoid subscribing to such publications and would rather purchase them each week or month on the newsstand or in a coin store. They don't wish to publicize the fact that they collect coins, even to the extent of having a coin periodical mailed home. Although most collectors believe this is being too cautious, it would be best to check whether your collector friend is so sensitive.

- A gift certificate from your friend's favorite coin store. Most collectors would appreciate

much more receiving a gift certificate, and thus be able to select their own coins.

If a noncollector buys coins, chances are the collector already may have them. Or the noncollector might be sold coins that are improperly graded or overpriced.

- Numismatic books. Hundreds of books on numismatics are published for the beginning through advanced collector. Most make wonderful gifts. Check coin stores and bookstores.

- Numismatic accessories. Such paraphernalia as coin folders, coin tubes, and magnifying glasses are essential to the coin hobbyist. Check your friend's want list and then visit a coin store.